विभाग खुद अपने ही छोटे और सटीक विज्ञापन इस योजना को देकर इन पोस्ट कार्डों को प्रचलन में लाएं तो इस छलावे को निपटाया जा सकता है। आश्चर्य है कि इस योजना को गंभीरता से नहीं लिया गया । लोगो को विवश किया जाता है कि वे पचास पैसे वाला पोस्ट कार्ड ही खरीदें। डाक विभाग को अपनी घोषणा और योजना की प्रतिष्ठा बचाने के लिए आगे आना चाहिए और पच्चीस पैसे वाला यह पोस्ट कार्ड सर्वसुलभ करवाना चाहिए। जनता भ्रम में है। गरीब अपमानित हैं। देहातों में डाक कर्मचारी अनावश्यक विवाद के पात्र हो गए हैं। सरकार कटघरे में है। मंत्रालय के मंत्री बदल जाने से घोषणाएं और जनता को दिए आश्वासन भुला देना सरकार को शोभा नहीं देता है । विज्ञापनदाता देश में वैसे भी पर्याप्त हैं। धन्यवाद।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : उपसभापति महोदया। आप कुर्सी पर बैठी हुई हैं, फैसला सुना दीजिए। वे भी अपनी सफाई में कुछ कह दे।

श्री रूमान्डला रामचन्द्रय्या (आन्ध्र प्रदेश) : सरकार कटघरे में बैठी है।

उपसभापति : अभी मंत्री जी हैं। राज्य सभा तो कटघरा नहीं है, वे राज्य सभा में बैठे हैं।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : लेकिन आप कुर्सी पर बैठी हैं।

उपसभापति : हां, लेकिन उनकी परिभाषा जो उन्होने कही, वह डिस्क्रिप्शन कि सरकार कटघरे मे है, तो हम सभी कटघरे मे बैठे हैं

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : जनता के कटघरे में।

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : उपसभापति महोदया, डाकघर में जब पोस्ट कार्ड मांगे गए, यहां बताया भी गया है, परसो जाने के पश्चात् ही मैंने निवेदन किया है, इस बारे में मेरा सिर्फ इतना कहना है कि उन्होने मुझसे कहा कि एक रुपए के चार पोस्ट कार्ड आए थे लेकिन अब पोस्ट कार्ड नही हैं इसके लिए क्षमा चाहते हैं।

MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Non-responding by Union Ministers to letters of Members of Parliament

उपसभापति : मनोज जी, आप कुछ कह रहे थे।

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Madam, I thank you very much. In fact, I am pained, sorry, distressed and anguished to

draw your attention to the fact that nowadays the Ministers, including the so-called most competent Ministers, do not care to reply the letters of ours. We feel confused whether the letters have reached the right destination or not. Madam, even a line of acknowledgement of the receipt of the letters is not available with us. I remember, Madam, when I raised the question of the Ministries' non-intervention in the matters of the Special Mentions being made by Members, you were kind enough to intervene and direct the Ministers, and for some time there was some improvement. The situation has once again gone back to the same peculiar situation and the Ministers do not care to reply or even care to acknowledge that the Special Mentions have been made. Now, this is a very serious situation. It is altogether an indifference being shown by the Ministers in acknowledging our letters, including the Ministers, who have been termed as 'very competent Ministers.' So, I request, Madam, your intervention and also request you to direct the Government so that, at least, letters written by us, on matters of urgent importance, be acknowledged and the Ministers replied to the queries raised by us. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know that on the Special Mentions, there is a direction that reply should come. But, sometimes, it is delayed because the subjects are such that they have to make an enquiry and let you know. Some subjects on the Special Mentions are in the form of recommendation. So, the Minister concern says, 'your recommendation is noted' 'we are looking into it', etc. That is a regular reply.

But, if a Member writes a letter to any Minister, it has to be replied. I feel, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, can convey the sentiments of the House that, at least, acknowledgments be sent to the letters written by the Members of Parliament. Of course, it may not solve any problem. But, at least, the Member knows that his letter reached the Minister.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal) : Madam, the problem is...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us not start a discussion on this.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, we had a change in the Rules and we are supposed to prepare a text of whatever Special Mention submission we wish to make in the House. The other part of the deal was that within a certain stipulated time, the Member concerned would receive the reply.

Now, we are redeeming our part of the deal. That is, we are submitting a written text and reading out that text. But, so far as the Government is concerned, there is no change. And, I think, now, it is time that the Presiding Officer will have to act to protect the rights of Members.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Presiding Officer is acting. I am asking the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to convey the feeling of Members.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Madam, the points raised by the hon. Members are duly replied. If there is any failure on the part of the Minister concerned, I will, again, convey the feelings -- non-receipt of acknowledgment or response to the Special Mentions -- of Members of the House to the Ministers. I will bring this to the notice of the Ministers concerned.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : इस का सवाल नहीं है । This is really nothing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your grievances are noted by the Chair and I am giving the direction that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Minister should send a letter to all the Ministers to acknowledge the letters received from Members and the reply on the Special Mentions should come within a stipulated time. As far as the Railway Minister is concerned, there is no complaint against him because I was there when everybody said that he replies to letters. So, at least, there is one Minister out of this *Katghara*.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: If this is the fate of the Members of Parliament, what would be the fate of the common man?

उपसभापति : अब हो गया । आप की बात पहुंचा दी, जो रिटन नहीं था still I said.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: I am not saying this about the Railway Minister. He is a good Railway Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, you should exclude him. At least, give him the benefit doubt.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: I exclude him from this.

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY (West Bengal) : Not the hon. Prime Minister. He does not give any reply.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He replies.

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Madam, he has not replied. His office does not reply.

उपसभापति : मिनिस्टर साहब, अब आप रिप्लाई दे दीजिए । We can adjourn the House at 1.30 p.m. It does not mean that the Minister is going to speak for forty-five minutes. We can adjourn the House at 1.30 p.m. because, now, it is 12.45 p.m. and the Minister cannot reply in fifteen minutes. So, Mr. Arun Shourie.

Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Communications And Information Technology

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Madam, we had a very knowledgeable and constructive debate. Shri Nilotpal Basu set a tone right from the beginning and the suggestions and observations made are really an excellent supplement and they build upon important Reports which the Standing Committees have put forward, both on Telecommunications and on Information Technology. There also, many of the points are very well documented.

I took diligent notes and took a very long-time to go through each one of the points. Many suggestions were made. My friend, Mr. Siddiqui's suggested about reinventing our post office. And, General Chowdhury remarked about the reservation for Ex-Servicemen, education planning that we have made, aggressive marketing of the BSNL and the MTNL with a good marketing logos, on the need for publicizing the different facilities extended by post offices, and, on schemes that we have, an hon. Member was kind enough to say that our schemes are as good as any other schemes. Hon. Member, Shri Ashwani Kumar, had suggested that we should showcase our IT strengths in London, in Europe, and in China itself. These were very important suggestions. I would certainly be taking them up with my colleagues. Madam, similarly, information was sought on many other matters. I would go through each Member's speech, and convey that